



Delaware River Basin Commission

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Steven J. Tambini, P.E.
Executive Director

December 3, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

RE: Federal Register Solicitation for Proposals by Non-Federal Interests in Authorized Water Resources Development Projects:
Optimization of Existing Storage Volumes in Federal Reservoirs in the Delaware River Basin

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

The water resources of the Delaware River Basin provide for the needs of over 15 million people for water supply in addition to providing flood mitigation, recreational opportunities and support for the ecological health of the natural environment. The Delaware River Basin Compact created the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), which was formed by the four basin states (DE, NJ, NY, PA) and the United States to protect the water resources of the basin. The DRBC manages the water resources within the basin through the Delaware River Basin Compact and its implementing regulatory programs.

I am writing you today to propose a project for inclusion in the February 2015 Annual Report required by WRRDA 2014, Section 7001. The proposal is for a feasibility study of optimizing storage in, and uses of, the federal reservoirs in the Delaware River Basin. Additional active storage for low flow augmentation along with conjunctive use of all reservoirs has the potential to protect water supplies through improve stream conditions in dry weather, provide for salinity repulsion to protect water withdrawals, support aquatic life and valuable fisheries habitat, maintain flood mitigation functions and improve the basin's resiliency to drought conditions. Enclosed is a brief summary of the proposed feasibility study with the information requested in the Federal Register solicitation.

The DRBC owns storage for low flow augmentation in two federal reservoirs, Beltzville and Blue Marsh, and has permission to store water in a third, F.E. Walter, during drought emergency conditions. The proposed feasibility project is consistent with WRRDA and the missions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the DRBC. We appreciate your consideration of this proposal, and we look forward another opportunity to work with the Corps and other parties towards our shared commitment to the Delaware River Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stambini', is written over a horizontal line.

Steven J. Tambini
Executive Director